

A Carrot for the King

Once upon a time, as all good stories begin, there was a gardener who grew an enormous carrot. He was proud of his accomplishment.

So he took the carrot to his king, and said, "My lord, this is the greatest carrot I've ever grown or ever will grow. Therefore, I want to present it to you as a token of my love and respect for you."



The king was touched and discerned the man's heart. As the gardener turned to go, the king said, "Wait! You are clearly a good steward of the earth. I own a plot of land right next to yours. I want to give it to you freely as a gift, so you can garden it all."

The gardener was amazed and delighted and went home rejoicing.

There was a nobleman in the king's court who overheard what had just transpired. And he said to himself, "My! If that is what you get for a carrot, what if you give the king something better?"

So the next day, the nobleman came before the king leading a handsome black stallion. He bowed low and said, "My lord, I breed horses, and this is the greatest horse I've ever bred or ever will. Therefore, I want to present it to you as a token of my love and respect for you."

The king, however, discerned the nobleman's heart. He took the horse and summarily dismissed him.

Seeing that the nobleman was perplexed, the king declared, "The gardener gave the carrot for me, but you gave the horse for yourself."

The application from this story?

God is not concerned with the enormity of our deeds or the size of our gifts but with the purity of our motivation. In God's economy, the attitude is infinitely more important than the amount.

That is definitely true in the work of Life Care and Century Park, as well as in other areas of our lives. God looks beyond external evidence to judge the heart.

For the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7 ESV).